

fire line in the Buffer Zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve. The area does not form part of National Park or Sanctuary. Since the felling is for management of the reserve forest, no prior permission of the Central Government is required. However, further felling, operations have been stopped in the area vide order dated 30th March, 2001 of Chief Wildlife Warden of Uttaranchal State.

**Pollution in Tamil Nadu**

3855. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of pollution has been increasing in Chennai and other parts of the State;

(b) if so, what are the main causes of growing pollution;

(c) the steps taken by Government to contain pollution in the State;

(d) whether any action has been taken to contain pollution in Kalpakkam Thermal Power Station;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No definite trend of increase in pollution has been observed in Chennai and other major cities of Tamil Nadu during the last couple of years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various steps taken by the Government to contain pollution in the State include the following:—

- Steps have been taken to control pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries.
- Environmental guidelines for siting and operation of industries have been brought out.
- Environmental clearance has been made compulsory for specified categories of developmental projects.
- Emission standards have been notified under the Environment

(Protection) Act for about 80 categories of industries. Besides, standards for ambient air and water quality have also been notified.

-For control of pollution from automobiles, stricter emission standards, introduction of unleaded petrol in major cities, installation of catalytic converters, introduction of low sulphur fuels and improvement in the fuel quality have been undertaken.

-Ambient air quality is being monitored regularly in major cities of the State.

(d) and (e) The steps taken to control pollution in Kalpakkam Power Station include the following:—

- (i) Adequate measures have been taken for control of radiation hazards;
  - (ii) Adequate facilities have been provided for treatment of effluents before discharging;
  - (iii) Management of radio active wastes conforming to environmental norms;
  - (iv) Periodic monitoring and surveillance of emissions from the Power Station.
- (f) Does not arise.

**Plantation in hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh**

3856. **SHRI ANIL SHARMA:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any action plan for large scale tree plantation in hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, togetherwith the places earmarked for such plantation; and

(c) the funds earmarked for this purpose during the last two years and the funds actually utilized during this period?

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):** (a) Yes, Sir.